



IN THIS ISSUE

**Community Meetings to Discuss Housing Barriers
Pathways to Public Service
Weekly Digest of Special Events**

Council Follow Up Items

**Affordable Housing Production Numbers (Council Member Branch)
Former DMV Site Update (Council Member Branch)
RaleighNC.gov Website Project (Council Member Branch)
Accessible Pedestrian Signal Volume Levels (Council Member Jones)**

INFORMATION:

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, February 4 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Thursday:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf/Public>

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

Community Meetings to Discuss Housing Barriers

Staff Resource: Nicholas Dula, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-6935, nicholas.dula@raleighnc.gov

The City is partnering with Wake County, the town of Cary, the Raleigh Housing Authority, and the Wake County Housing Authority to complete a regional fair housing study called the [Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice](#). City staff and partners are hosting a series of meetings to gather community feedback on housing barriers and opportunities to improve fair housing. The City is promoting the full meeting series

through GovDelivery emails that contain a link to [the event flyer](#). A meeting is scheduled in Raleigh at 5:30pm on Thursday, February 6 in the Carousel House at the John Chavis Community Center. All feedback collected during the meeting series will be included in the regional study.

(No attachment)

Pathways to Public Service

Staff Resource: Cathey Ector-Cox, Community Engagement, 996-5730, cathey.ector@raleighnc.gov

The Partnership Raleigh Program within the Community Engagement department has welcomed a second cohort which includes 15 students and recent graduates from nine different colleges and universities. Participants will work across ten city departments for six-months gaining hands-on professional experience, mentorship, and professional development. The program enables fellows to apply academic knowledge to real-world settings. Program participants will contribute to meaningful projects, collaborate with city leaders, and gain valuable insights pertaining to the inner workings of municipal government.

With an impressive 98% fellowship completion rate, 89% of fellows in our first cohort accepted full-time positions either with the City Raleigh or various nonprofit partners. Suleyman Ingram, a former fellow, was recently hired as a full-time Engineering Specialist with Raleigh Stormwater, highlighting a program goal to create employment opportunities for young adults while addressing the evolving needs of the organization.

(No attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow up from the December 3, 2024 Council Meeting

Affordable Housing Production Numbers (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Nicholas Dula, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-6935, nicholas.dula@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested clarification on the housing production numbers presented during the staff presentation

The staff presentation included housing production numbers from the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan describes how funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are planned to be utilized over a five-year period. The data presented by staff during the Council meeting was a subset of the overall affordable housing production reported by the City, and only included units created during the first four years of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan term. Historically, there have also been some differences in how units have been counted for the Consolidated Plan versus other housing production reporting.

Staff is developing a standard reporting methodology to ensure consistency in all future reporting. The chart below shows the total number of completed housing units and projected housing units. This is the best representation of the City’s progress toward the housing production goal of 5,700 units over a ten-year period. The chart shows that the City has exceeded the housing production goal of creating 5,700 affordable housing units.

Total Housing Production			
Completed Housing Production Units	All Units Funded To-date In FY2024-2025	Pipeline Housing Production Units	TOTAL
3,848	826	2,475	7,149

(No attachment)

Follow up from January 21 Council Meeting

Former DMV Site Update (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Tiesha Mosley, Community Engagement, 996-2707, tiesha.mosley@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested an update on the former DMV Site. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing an update on engagement, the request for proposal, communications, and the project schedule.

(Attachment)

RaleighNC.gov Website Project (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Robin Deacle, Communications, 996-3002, robin.deacle@raleighnc.gov

During the January 21 council meeting staff was asked for an update on the RaleighNC.gov restructuring and redesign project, presented at the October 15 City Council meeting. Since that meeting, the project team and the vendor have been working through specific details for the statement of work. The vendor has also gone through a corporate reorganization, requiring new paperwork for the contracting process. With those issues now addressed, the contract is being routed through the contract approval process.

Once the contract is executed the project will proceed as presented. Community focus groups will happen this spring. Input from the focus groups will be reflected in the design and then development work through the summer. In late summer or early fall, the new site should be ready to preview for the community. At the

time of community preview, staff will gather input that will help address the largest issues prior to launch. The Communications department will continue to share updates as work on the project progresses.

(No attachment)

Accessible Pedestrian Signal Volume Levels (Council Member Jones)

Staff Resource: Jed Niffenegger, Transportation, 996-4039, jed.niffenegger@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested information on the volume of audible crosswalk devices, known as Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS). APS devices provide non-visual information at signalized intersections and were developed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The 2009 Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) introduced new APS requirements, including speech messages and vibrotactile locators, based on input from the U.S. Access Board and the visually impaired community.

Following the 2009 MUTCD, APS manufacturers adapted to new standards, with initial units approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) that were installed across the city on various projects. Early models had several issues including resetting to the loudest volume during power surges and fluctuations. This has an unintended consequence of causing noise pollution that could be heard 250+ yards away affecting nearby residents' quality of life. Over time, corrections were developed, and newer APS models were approved, resolving many of the prior challenges. Currently, the city operates a mix of older and newer units.

In 2021, the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities engaged city staff about how and when APS units are installed. This coincided with the upcoming 2023 MUTCD update and new *Public Right-of-Way Access Guidelines* (PROWAG), which were expected to mandate APS at all signalized intersections with pedestrian signals. At that time, city staff committed to installing APS units at all eligible city signalized intersections within 10 years, if not sooner. NCDOT has not yet made such a commitment; however, we are working with our partners at NCDOT to ensure they are included in future projects. If an immediate need arises, NCDOT will partner with city forces to get APS units installed. With recurring CIP funding secured by the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, the city has installed APS devices at 35 intersections over the last 2 years and has 25 more in the pipeline. Additionally, commitments from private development, City, and State projects will add APS devices to 90–130 more intersections.

Adjusting APS volume can be challenging. The units are complex and have a feature where the volume auto-adjust based on ambient noise. This feature has historically had reliability issues, especially with the older units. Another issue, which is unfortunate, is vandalism seems to be frequent with APS devices. Every year, a preventive maintenance (PM) is performed, and part of that process includes checking the volume levels of the APS devices. For challenging locations or situations, city forces use the expertise from the Governor Morehead School, Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, North Carolina Council of the Blind, and individual users to ensure the volume is loud enough.

Staff believes there are enough processes in place to ensure the APS devices are working as they were designed. Staff would recommend that if anyone has a concern with any feature of an APS device, they reach out to city staff directly. Direct communication is the easiest way to allow us to prioritize the concern and provide the highest quality of service we can for the visually impaired community.

(No attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 31 – Thursday, February 6

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Krispy Kreme Challenge](#)

Hillsborough Street & Downtown

Saturday, February 1

Event Time: 8:00am - 10:45am

Associated Road Closures: Hillsborough Street between Chamberlain Street and Pullen Road will be closed from 4:00am until 12:00pm. N. Person Street between Polk Street and E. Pace Street will be closed from 4:00am until 10:30am. Roads along the route will be closed from 8:00am until 10:45am; note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured during the event and [view the 5-mile route map](#) for more details.

Other Upcoming Events

[Mary J. Blige](#)

Friday, January 31

Lenovo Center

[PineCone Presents: Iris DeMent](#)

Friday, January 31

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Florencia en el Amazonas – NC Opera](#)

Friday, January 31 & Sunday, February 2

Memorial Auditorium

[output:reflect:input: Opening Reception | SEEK Raleigh](#)

Saturday, February 1

Birdland

[Oaks and Spokes Free Bike Repairs](#)

Saturday, February 1

Peach Road Community Center

[Clemson vs. NC State](#)

Saturday, February 1

Lenovo Center

[Los Angeles Kings vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Saturday, February 1

Lenovo Center

[Governor's Cup](#)

Sunday, February 2

Lenovo Center

[Boléro – Carolina Ballet](#)

Thursday, February 6 – Sunday, February 23

Fletcher Opera Theater

Public Resources

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Evan Raleigh, Assistant City Manager
From	Tiesha Mosley, Director
Department	Community Engagement
Date	January 31, 2025
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: January 21, 2025 Meeting Former DMV Site Update

Engagement Update

Informational signs and project brochures were added to the site in December 2024. The [Project Working Group](#) (PWG) continues to meet monthly at Martin Street Baptist Church on the second Thursday evening. Early sessions built capacity by educating members on redevelopment processes, site history, and city-funded project milestones, including pre-RFP considerations and temporary activations. Visioning and brainstorming refined priorities and aligned with community needs.

Members were trained in engagement strategies to foster authentic community connections and introduced to tools like surveys, meeting-in-a-box kits, and public events. They’ve explored case studies and engaged with our Documentarians in Residence to gain insights and honor the neighborhood’s legacy. These efforts have shaped shared values and strengthened connections, equipping the group to begin collaboratively developing RFP criteria starting in February.

Engagement efforts to date:

- Community Survey (Approx. 500 participants):
- Top community priorities:
 1. Food/Market
 2. Affordable Housing
 3. Community Spaces & Recreation
- Top values:
 1. Quality of Life
 2. Community Connection
 3. Innovation & Improvement

- Community Office Hours (6+ hours): Held on the second Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering residents an opportunity to share thoughts with staff.
- Community Kickoff Event (August 24, 2024): Launched the engagement and visioning phase with food, activities, and conversations with residents and the Project Working Group. [Read more about the event here.](#)
- Tabling at Community Events (10+ local events): Participate in events to share project updates and gather feedback from residents.
- Yard Signs: Project Working Group members and other residents are displaying project yard signs on their lawns to spread awareness and encourage community engagement.

The Project Working Group has also been active in the community, participating in:

- CAC meetings
- Door-to-door canvassing
- Distributing rack cards to community clubs
- Task force meetings
- Black Santa events
- Engagement with local churches, newsletters, and community days
- Southeast Raleigh Promise Legacy Resident Ambassador Program
- Social media outreach through Facebook Groups and personal profiles
- Men of Southeast Raleigh events
- African American Cultural board meetings
- Southeast Raleigh Community Learning Center bonfire events
- Collaboration with organizations like Oak City Cares and the Pan-Hellenic Council



Request For Proposal (RFP) Update

While the timing of the RFP is still undecided and will likely be determined following input from the City Council, a number of steps have been taken to up the likelihood of a successful process to select a development partner for the site.

1. **Case studies** of large site dispositions in Richmond, VA; Boulder, CO; and Cleveland, OH were undertaken to identify best practices and lessons learned. Each site was either served by Bus Rapid Transit or had similar service nearby. While each case study was unique, several themes emerged: (1) these types of dispositions are complex—false starts and mid-course corrections are common; (2) a market study prior to issuance of the RFP is essential for setting expectations and checking proposal visions against market reality; and (3) in most cases the project was delivered by an entity or team different from the

original winner of the selection process. The City also seeks to learn from our own experience at Moore Square.

2. Staff undertook a high-level **market scan** of the priority uses identified by the community process. We found market support for a food store, a need that might be satisfied on this site or another private site nearby. There is strong demand for multifamily housing, both market-rate and affordable, and mixed-income is the most cost-effective way to deliver significant affordable housing. On-site lifestyle food and retail is essential for getting the strongest rents—while a full-size food hall might be a stretch given the presence of two food halls downtown, a similar sort of multi-vendor space would support the housing part of the program and could feature operators who already have successful concepts in east Raleigh. Finally, while the site is large enough to accommodate some outdoor amenity area, as important are safe connections to nearby parks such as Tarboro Road and Roberts Park.
3. Staff are currently putting together an RFQ document for a **consultant-led market study** to expand on these findings and take them to the next level of detail. We would look to commence work in the spring and take delivery of the findings over the summer.
4. The City in partnership with Raleigh Housing Authority are studying the feasibility of implementing an innovative **mixed-income housing financing model** that is currently in use in Montgomery County MD and Atlanta. Because this model has the potential to be far more cost-effective than the model employed for Moore Square and could also produce a better and more integrated development outcome, it is probably advisable to have the results of this study in hand before issuing the RFP for a development partner. In order for this model to be used on the site, however, it would be necessary for funding to be found in order to capitalize a loan pool.

With the foregoing in mind, it is probably best to target a Q3 or Q4 release date for the RFP for the former DMV site.

Communications Update

Website

There is a project webpage dedicated to telling the story of this project:

<https://raleighnc.gov/projects/former-dmv-site>

Highlights include a webpage focused on [Life on New Bern Avenue](#) and content that elevates the [Project Working Group](#) and all their great work.

Media

There is a lot of public interest in this site and project, including the media. Recent news media coverage includes:

- [WRAL: Future of old DMV headquarters in Raleigh is up in the air](#)
- [WRAL: City of Raleigh seeks community input for future of former DMV building](#)
- [WRAL: Raleigh wants community to decide future of former DMV site on New Bern Avenue](#)
- [N&O: What will Raleigh build at the former DMV headquarters? City leaders have big ideas](#)
- [N&O: What should Raleigh do with the former DMV headquarters? Here's how you can weigh in](#)
- [ABC11: Raleigh's \\$20M bid to buy and transform DMV site goes up for vote](#)

The Indy is currently researching the project and has attended several recent working group meetings. They are working with Public Information Officer (PIO) Julia Milstead to interview project working group members and City staff about the project. Interviews are scheduled for January 31 with a story forthcoming.

Site Remediation& Demolition Schedule Update

Project investigation and design: Summer 2024

- Complete

Permitting: Early 2025

- Permit review in progress through March 2025

Bidding: Spring 2025

- Solicitation anticipated through May 2025
- Contract routing anticipated through June 2025

Commencement of Work: Summer 2025

- Remediation process approximately six months
- Demolition process approximately six months

Project completion: Summer of 2026